

## Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for facilitating retention of a computer input device that is used for navigation among web pages that are accessible via a Global Information Network, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) providing the computer input device for facilitating navigation to web sites and among web pages, wherein the computer input device includes at least one touch-sensitive surface whereby data is input to the computer input device;

(2) providing a web browser terminal which is controllable by the computer input device, wherein the web browser terminal includes a visual display and a web browser for accessing the web sites and displaying the web pages;

(3) selecting an image to be disposed on the at least one touch-sensitive surface; and

(4) disposing the image selected by the owner on the at least one touch-sensitive surface of the computer input device, to thereby personalize the computer input device, and thereby influence the owner to keep and use the

computer input device.

2. A system for providing access to a preprogrammed website on the Internet from a peripheral linking device that is programmed to direct access to the website, said system comprising:

a peripheral linking device;

at least one programmable button on the peripheral linking device;

a computer system that receives input from the peripheral linking device, and which has access to the Internet; and

a linkbox database disposed on the Internet, wherein the linkbox database includes a database for the peripheral linking device that associates an address of the website with the at least one programmable button, wherein actuating the at least one programmable button on the peripheral input device causes the linkbox database to send to the computer system an address of the website.

3. A system for facilitating navigation among websites and web pages at the websites that are accessible via the

world wide web, said system comprising a peripheral input device for facilitating navigation in the world wide web, wherein the peripheral input device includes:

at least one touch-sensitive surface whereby data is input to the peripheral input device, and wherein the at least one touch-sensitive surface includes an image disposed thereon; and

at least one switch which actuates an activity associated with web navigation.

4. A system for facilitating navigation among websites and web pages at the websites that are accessible via the web, said system comprising:

a peripheral input device for facilitating navigation in the world wide;

a browser terminal which is coupled to the peripheral input device, and which displays information retrieved from the world wide web by using the peripheral input device; and

a merchant database which is hosted at a merchant database website and which displays merchant information, wherein the peripheral input device navigates to the

merchant database to thereby display the merchant information on the browser terminal.

5. A system for facilitating navigation among websites and web pages at the websites that are accessible via the web, said system comprising:

a peripheral input device for facilitating navigation in the world wide web, wherein the peripheral input device includes:

at least one touch-sensitive surface whereby data is input to the peripheral input device; and

at least one switch which performs an activity associated with web navigation;

a browser terminal which is coupled to the peripheral input device, wherein the browser terminal includes:

a visual display; and

a web browser for accessing the websites and displaying the web pages; and

a merchant database which is hosted at a merchant database website and which displays merchant information, wherein the peripheral input device navigates to the merchant database to thereby display the merchant

information on the browser terminal.

6. A method for facilitating navigation among websites and web pages that are accessible via the world wide web, wherein the system facilitates e-commerce, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) providing a peripheral input device for facilitating navigation in the world wide web, wherein the peripheral input device includes at least one touch-sensitive surface whereby data is input to the peripheral input device, and wherein the at least one touch-sensitive surface includes an image disposed thereon, and at least one switch which performs an activity associated with web navigation;

(2) providing a browser terminal which is coupled to the peripheral input device, and which displays information retrieved from the world wide web by using the peripheral input device; and

(3) navigating the world wide web by providing input to the peripheral input device to thereby control the browser terminal so as to display desired web pages.

7. The method as defined in claim 6 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

(1) selecting an image to dispose on the touch-sensitive surface;

(2) applying an adhesive to the touch-sensitive surface; and

(3) disposing the image to the touch-sensitive surface such that the image is held in place by the adhesive.

8. The method as defined in claim 7 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

(1) removing the image from the touch-sensitive surface;

(2) selecting a new image; and

(3) disposing the new image on the touch-sensitive surface, to thereby customize the peripheral input device as desired.

9. The method as defined in claim 7 wherein the method further comprises the step of customizing the peripheral input device by prominently disposing a design that is

associated with a particular merchant on the touch-sensitive surface to thereby indicate sponsorship of the peripheral input device.